Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SS-15 ACDA-12 /136 W

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R 041719Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4473

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PEPR, ECIN, SP, GR, PO

SUBJECT: JENKINS VISIT: THE TEMPO PICKS UP

REF: BRUSSELS 8285

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS' TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MADRID CAME AS THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVES TO GEAR UP FOR WHAT IS CERTAIN TO BE A LENGTHY AND DIFFICULT SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS. JENKINS MET WITH A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL, LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO ASSESS THE DEPTH OF SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AMONG KEY LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS. SPANISH ALSO FELT HE WAS GAUGING THE ABILITY OF THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS TO COPE WITH THE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT JOB AHEAD. VISIT WAS

BILLED AS MORE OF A GET-ACQUAINTED AND INFORMATIVE EXCHANGE RATHER THAN A NEGOTIATING SESSION AND AS SUCH HAD A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. MAIN POINT PRESSED BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT WAS THAT THEY HAVE MADE A SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO FORMALLY JOIN EUROPE AND FULLY EXPECT TO SEE THE NEGOTIATIONS MOVE AHEAD AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY

2. DURING JENKINS' APRIL 27-28 STAY IN MADRID HE MET WITH THE KING, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ, LEADERS OF THE MAJOR PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT, LABOR ELEMENTS AND TOP BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. SPANISH OFFICIALS WERE HAPPY TO SHOW OFF THE STILL UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AMONG ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS. SOME BUSINESS LEADERS TOLD JENKINS THAT THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT INCREASED COMPETITION AND THE LOSS OF STATE PROTECTION, BUT WERE RECONCILED TO THE FACT OF SPAIN'S ECONOMIC FUTURE BEING TIED TO EUROPE. AT LEAST ONE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL NOTED WRYLY THAT LABORITE JENKINS SEEMED A BIT MORE ANIMATED IN TALKING WITH HIS MORE IDEOLOGICALLY COMPATIBLE COLLEAGUES IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY (COMPARED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH MORE CONSERVATIVE GROUPS) BUT ON THE WHOLE THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED WITH HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND OBVIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC.

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- 3. JENKINS WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY SET UP TO HANDLE THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS WORKING. THE SPANISH EXPLAINED THAT CALVO SOTELO'S (MINISTER FOR RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES) SMALL STAFF CONTAINED KEY EXPERTS FROM THE REGULAR MINISTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH EACH SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA (TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE, ETC.). THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR HARMONIZING STRATEGY AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THEN OBTAINING GOVERNMENTWIDE CLEARANCE FOR THE SPANISH POSITION ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES. THERE IS ALSO A CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH CALVO SOTELO AS HIS DEPUTY, TO RESOLVE ANY MAJOR QUESTIONS THAT ARISE. SO FAR THE SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE WORKING WELL, BUT ITS STIFFER TESTS ARE STILL BEFORE IT.
- 4. JENKINS GAVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE EC COMMISSION'S RECENTLY APPROVED "FRESCO" OR "REFLECTIONS" ON ENLARGEMENT (REFTEL). THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE "FRESCO'S" BROAD OUTLINE AS POSITIVE IN TONE AND OVERALL PHILOSOPHY. THEY ARE AWAITING THE MORE DETAILED COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS CALLED FOR BY THE EC COUNCIL

(AS WELL AS MEMBER STATES' REACTIONS) TO SEE IF ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN FORMAT OR STRUCTURE WILL ARISE.

5. TIMETABLE: SPANISH EXPECT TO FINISH BY THE END OF THIS MONTH THE LARGEST PART OF THE "QUESTIONNAIRES" GIVEN TO THEM IN MARCH. THEY ARE PROVIDING BOTH DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PRESENT POLICIES AND FIVE-YEAR PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE PROGRAMS. THEY EXPECT THE COMMISSION'S "OPINION" TO BE READY BY JANUARY OR FEBRUARY OF 1979, WITH FORMAL ADHESION TO TAKE PLACE IN 1981-82.

6. STRATEGY: ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MATTER, SPAIN DOES NOT WANT TO WAIT UNTIL 1979 TO BEGIN ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT LOOKS UPON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JENKINS' VISIT AS JUST THE FIRST OF A STEADILY INCREASING SERIES OF HIGH AND WORKING LEVEL SESSIONS.

THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY EARLY ON MAJOR AND MINOR PROBLEMS AND BEGIN TO WORK TOWARDS SOLUTION IN AN INFORMAL WAY. CALVO SOTELO HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO VISIT THE OTHER EC CAPITALS IN MAY AND JUNE.

EC COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON IS TENTATIVELY EXPECTED IN MADRID NEXT MONTH. THE SPANISH WANT TO BUILD UP A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM TO HELP CARRY THEM THROUGH THE PROBLEMS AND DISPUTES, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, SURE TO COME IN THE FUTURE.

- 7. THE SPANISH TOLD JENKINS THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR OWN ADHESION PROCESS DELAYED BY EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE AND PORTUGAL. OBVIOUSLY GREECE IS MUCH FURTHER ALONG, AND PORTUGAL WILL REQUIRE SOME SPECIAL TYPE OF ASSISTANCE. BUT THE SAME BROAD PRINCIPLES SHOULD APPLY TO ALL THREE, AND THE SPANISH CASE SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED OR PUT OFF UNTIL PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHER TWO ARE RESOLVED. SPANISH SAY JENKINS ASSURED THEM THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE.
- 8. SPANISH ALSO REITERATED TO JENKINS THEIR OFF-STATED POSITION THAT SPAIN SHOULD BE TREATED AS A "CANDIDATE" COUNTRY RATHER THAN A "THIRD" COUNTRY ON ALL ITEMS THAT MAY ARISE UNTIL THE ADHESION PROCESS IS COMPLETED. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THE LONG STALLED REVISION OF THE 1970 TRADE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS A VERY INVOLVED NEGOTIATION THAT THE SPANISH WOULD JUST AS SOON DROP SO AS TO CONCENTRATE ALL THEIR ENERGIES ON THE MAIN EVENT, AS WELL AS SUCH MATTERS AS STEEL, TEXTILES AND FISHING.
- 9. COMMENT: WHILE SPANISH ARE STRONGLY OPTIMISTIC AS TO THE FINAL OUTCOME, WE BELIEVE THE LEADERSHIP IS WELL AWARE OF THE LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS AHEAD. AGRICULTURE, FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR, STEEL, TEXTILES, FISHING, BANKING, PROTECTION OF INDUSTRY AND OTHER ISSUES HAVE YET TO BE FACED; BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS AT LEAST BEGINNING TO ORGANIZE ITSELF TO COPE WITH THE TASK. THEY ARE TRYING TO SET A POSITIVE TONE AND BUILD THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF A LOGICAL AND ORDERLY PROCESS OF

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DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION WITH THE EEC. IT WOULD SEEM THEY HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START. EATON

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